

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of January 13, 2006 stated that the Reply filed on November 9, 2005 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action of July 6, 2005 because it fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.111 because Applicants arguments do not comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c) because they do not clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made, wherein there is no indication as to what is the patentable novelty of Claims 132-138. The present Reply is further responsive to the Office Action of July 6, 2005 and to the Office Action of January 13, 2006.

With regard to Claims 132-138, Applicants submit that the patentable novelty which Claims 132-138 present in view of the above objections made is that Ikuta does not teach or even suggest holding the preform in a doping atmosphere which is kept at a pressure higher than ambient, and new Claims 132-138 avoid the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikuta 6499317 at least because Claim 132 recites, *inter alia*, "...the first doping atmosphere is pressurized to a first doping pressure greater than ambient pressure..." and "...the second doping atmosphere is pressurized to a second doping pressure greater than ambient pressure...", and Claims 133-138 depend, ultimately or directly, from independent base Claim 132. Moreover, Ikuta teaches away from holding the preform in a doping atmosphere which is kept at a pressure higher than ambient at the cited col. 13 lines 25-37 by teaching an inert gas at normal pressure in its container, then reducing that pressure to a level of 1 Torr, and only then introducing a dopant gas (SiF₄) and holding the preform.

Applicants submit that remarks concerning the patentable novelty of Claims 132-138 appear herein and the present Reply complies with 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c). Applicants request entry and consideration of the present Reply.

5. Conclusion

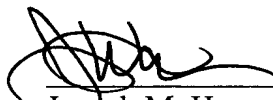
Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, Applicants believe the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorize the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Joseph M. Homa at 607-974-9061.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: February 9, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Homa', is written over a horizontal line.

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